AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1.   (Currently amended) A descriptor propagation system comprising:

a descriptor acceptance device that accepts a first descriptor associated with a first content granularity; and

a descriptor propagation ~~generator~~ device that propagates the first ~~generates a second~~ descriptor to ~~associated with~~ a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity, and wherein the descriptor propagation device propagates the first descriptor without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second granularity.

Claim 2.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

wherein the ~~a~~ descriptor propagation device ~~that~~ generates a propagation function based upon the first descriptor and the first content granularity, and

wherein the descriptor propagation ~~generator~~ device propagates the first ~~generates the second~~ descriptor based upon the propagation function and the first descriptor.

Claim 3.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a repository that stores the first descriptor associated with the first content granularity.

Claim 4.   (Currently amended) A descriptor mapping system, comprising:

a descriptor acceptance device that accepts a first descriptor at a first content granularity;

an information repository that stores a mapping function; and

a descriptor propagation ~~generator~~ device that propagates the first ~~generates a second~~ descriptor to ~~at~~ a second content granularity which is finer than the first content granularity based upon the first descriptor and the mapping function without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second granularity.

Claim 5.   (Canceled).

Claim 6.   (Original) The system of claim 4, further comprising:

a descriptor mapping device that generates another mapping function based upon the first

descriptor and the first content granularity, and that stores the second mapping function in the

information repository.

Claim 7.   (Original) The system of claim 4, further comprising:

a repository that stores the first descriptor associated with a first content granularity.

Claim 8.   (Currently amended) A descriptor classification system, comprising:

a descriptor acceptance device that accepts a first content that includes a first descriptor at

a first content granularity; and

a descriptor propagation ~~generator~~ device that propagates ~~generates an output~~ content that

includes the first descriptor to ~~at~~ a second content granularity ~~based upon a second content at the~~

~~first content granularity~~,

wherein the second content granularity is finer than the first content granularity, and

wherein the descriptor propagation device propagates the content without prior data

regarding the content at the second content granularity.

Claim 9.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 8, further comprising:

a descriptor classification device that generates a classification function based upon the

first content, and

wherein the descriptor propagation ~~generator~~ device propagates ~~generates~~ the ~~output~~

content based upon the classification function and the first ~~second~~ content at the first content

granularity.

Claim 10.   (Currently amended) A method for propagating descriptors, comprising:

analyzing a first content at a first content granularity to determine a propagation function

that correlates a first descriptor provided for the first content to a second content granularity that

is finer than the first content granularity; and

propagating ~~outputting~~ the first descriptor to ~~at~~ the second content granularity without

prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

Claim 11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein analyzing the first content to determine the propagation function comprises extracting features from the first content.

Claim 12.   (Currently amended) A method for mapping descriptors, comprising:

     mapping a first descriptor at a first content granularity to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon a mapping function; and

     propagating ~~outputting~~ the first descriptor to ~~at~~ the second content granularity without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

Claim 13.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the mapping function is stored in an information repository.

Claim 14.   (Canceled).

Claim 15.   (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising analyzing the first descriptor to generate another mapping function.

Claim 16.   (Currently amended) A method for classifying descriptors comprising:

     generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a first content at a first content granularity;

     accepting a second content granularity that does not include a descriptor; and

     propagating ~~providing~~ the first descriptor to the second content ~~at a second content~~ granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification function without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

Claim 17.   (Currently amended) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method

of propagating descriptors, comprising:

instructions for generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a first content at a first content granularity;

instructions for accepting a second content that does not include a descriptor; and

instructions for propagating ~~providing~~ the first descriptor to the second content at a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification function without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

Claim 18.   (Currently amended) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of mapping descriptors, comprising:

instructions for mapping a first descriptor at a first content granularity to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon a mapping function; and

instructions for propagating ~~outputting~~ the first descriptor to ~~at~~ the second content granularity without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

Claim 19.   (Original) The medium of claim 18, wherein the second descriptor is different than the first descriptor and is stored in an information repository.

Claim 20.   (Currently amended) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of classifying descriptors, comprising:

instructions for generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a first content at a first content granularity;

instructions for accepting a second content that does not include a descriptor; and

instructions for propagating ~~providing~~ the first descriptor to the second content at a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification function without data regarding the first descriptor at the second content

granularity.

Claim 21.   (Currently amended) A method of deploying computing infrastructure in which computer-readable code is integrated into a computing system, such that said code and said computing system combine to perform a method for propagating descriptors, said method comprising:

  analyzing a first content at a first content granularity to determine a propagation function that correlates a first descriptor provided for the first content to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity; and

  propagating ~~outputting~~ the first descriptor to ~~at~~ the second content granularity without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

Claim 22.   (Currently amended) A method of deploying computing infrastructure in which computer-readable code is integrated into a computing system, such that said code and said computing system combine to perform a method for mapping descriptors, said method comprising:

  mapping a first descriptor at a first content granularity to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon a mapping function; and

  propagating ~~outputting~~ the first descriptor to ~~at~~ the second content granularity without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

Claim 23.   (Currently amended) A method of deploying computing infrastructure in which computer-readable code is integrated into a computing system, such that said code and said computing system combine to perform a method for classifying descriptors, said method comprising:

  generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a first content at a first content granularity;

  accepting a second content that does not include a descriptor; and

  propagating ~~providing~~ the first descriptor to the second content at a second content

granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification function without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.